

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE
**SEDATION
SEPARATION
ANXIETY**



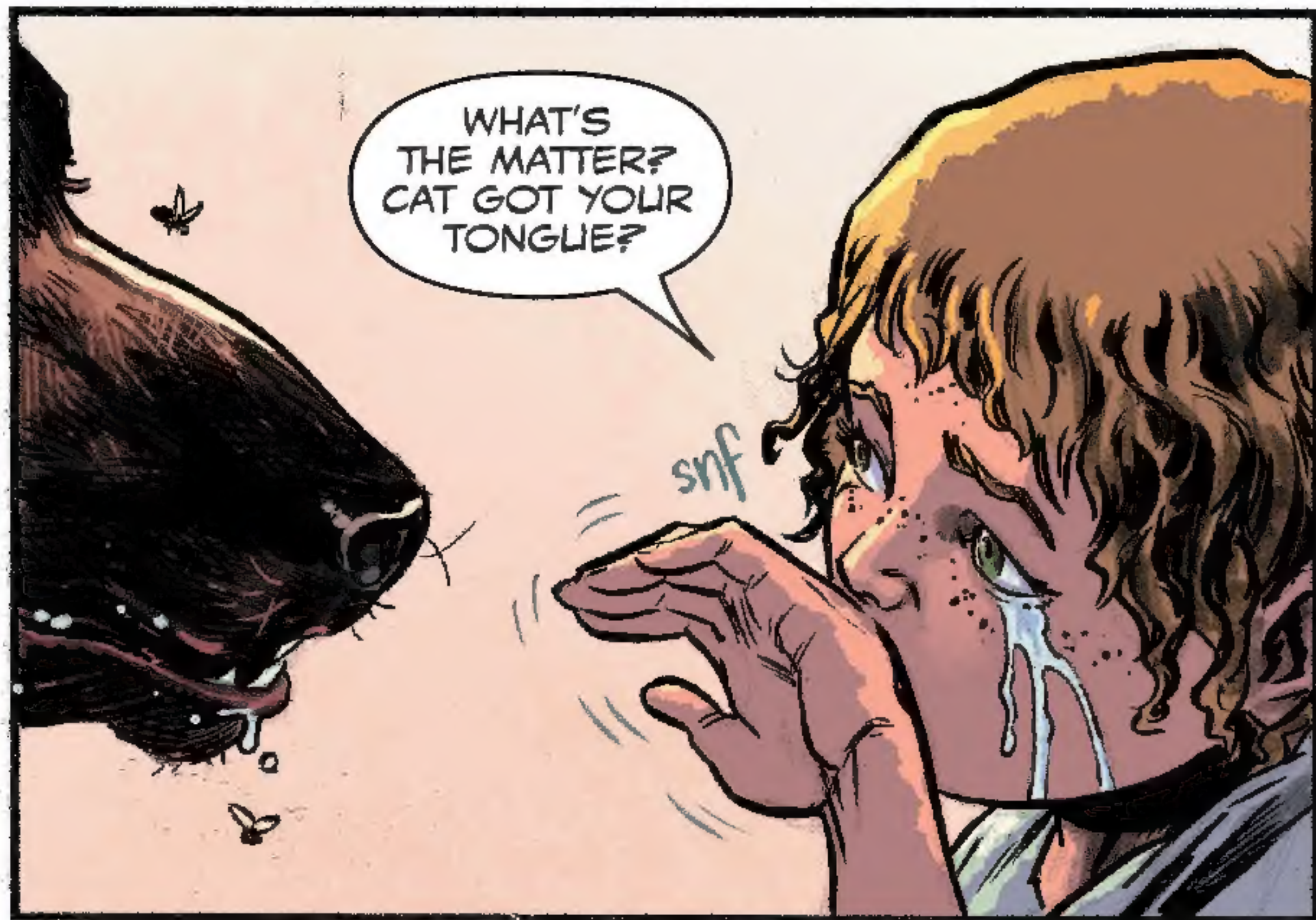
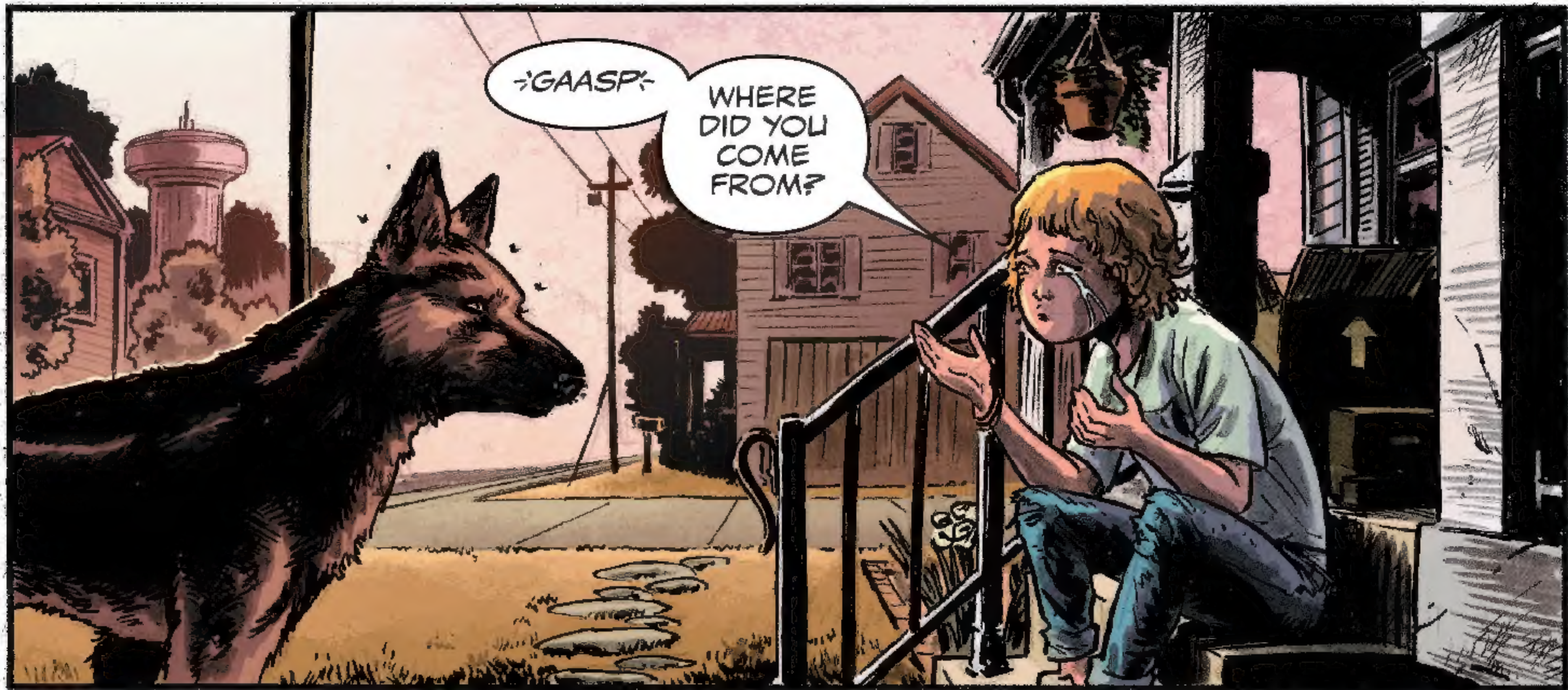
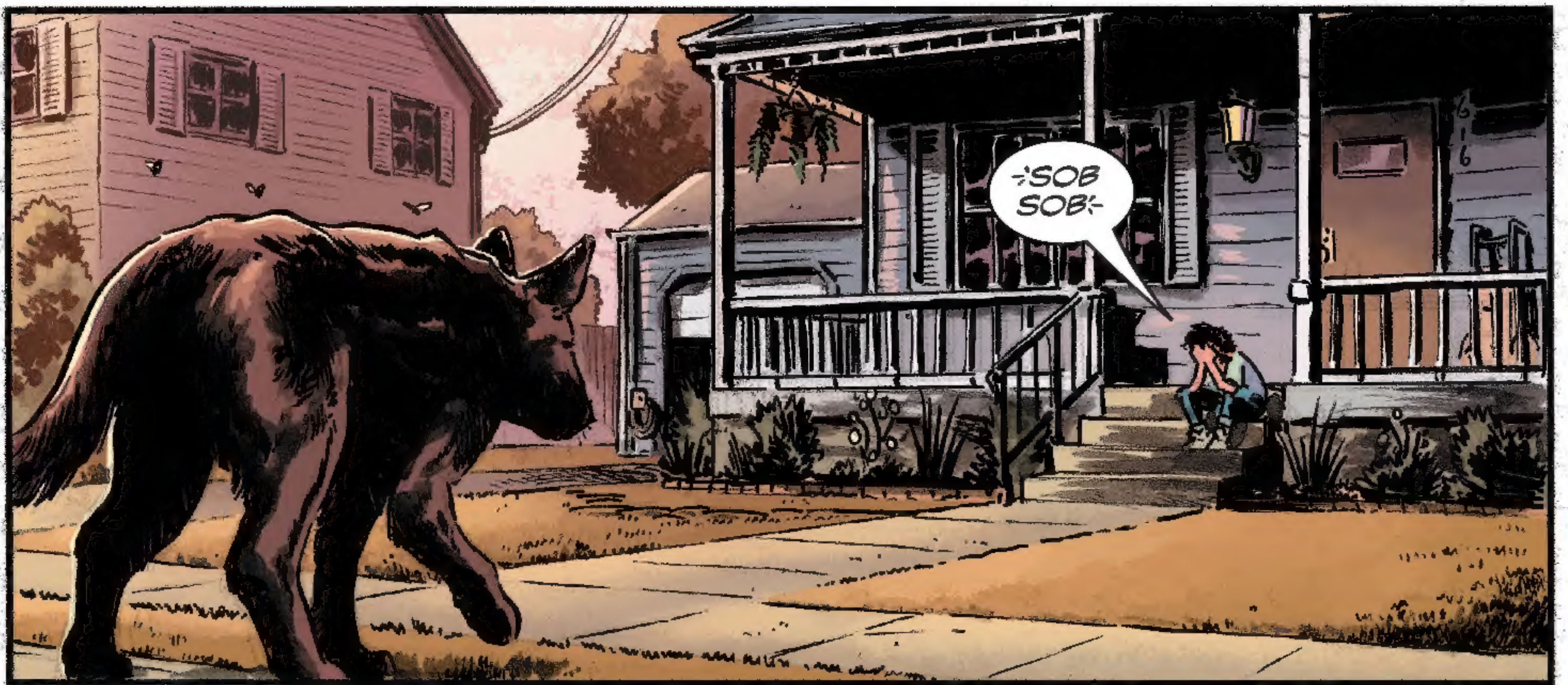
CHAPMAN
LEVEL
BOYD

MARVEL

1

CARRINGTON COTTAGE, COLORADO.





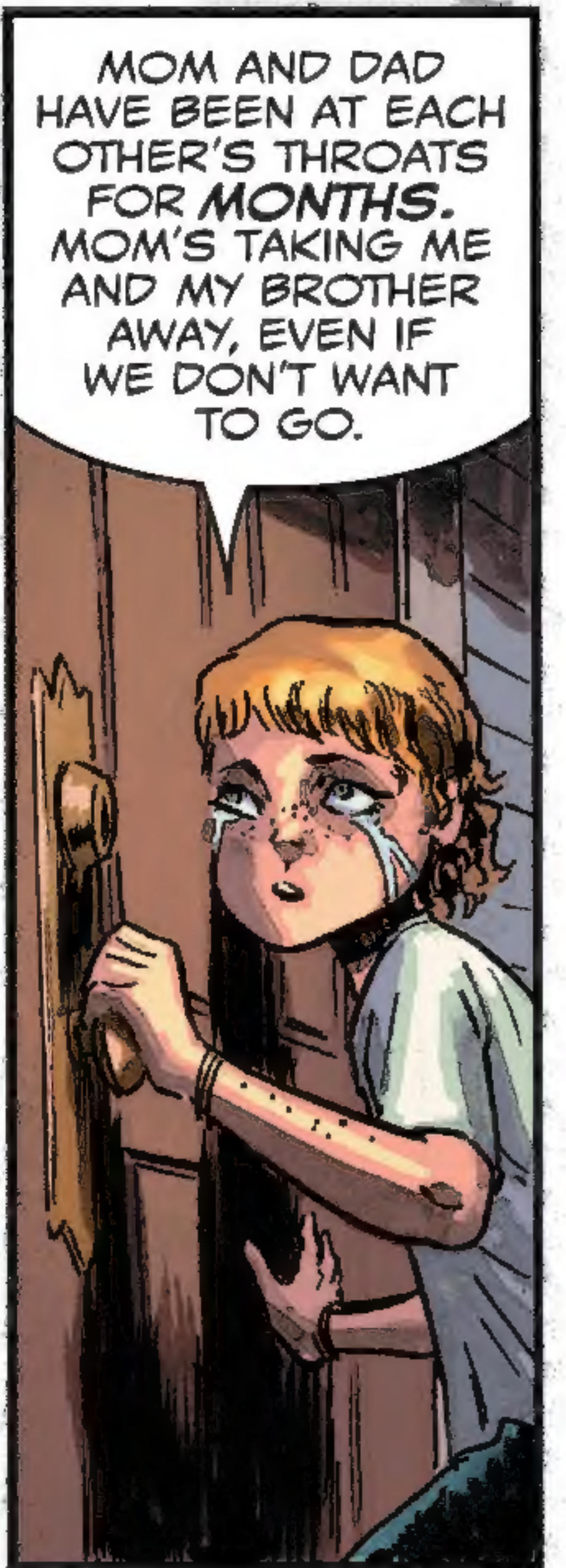


I GOTTA GO...
SORRY.



I WISH I COULD INVITE YOU IN, BUT...WELL, IT'S NOT REALLY MY HOME.

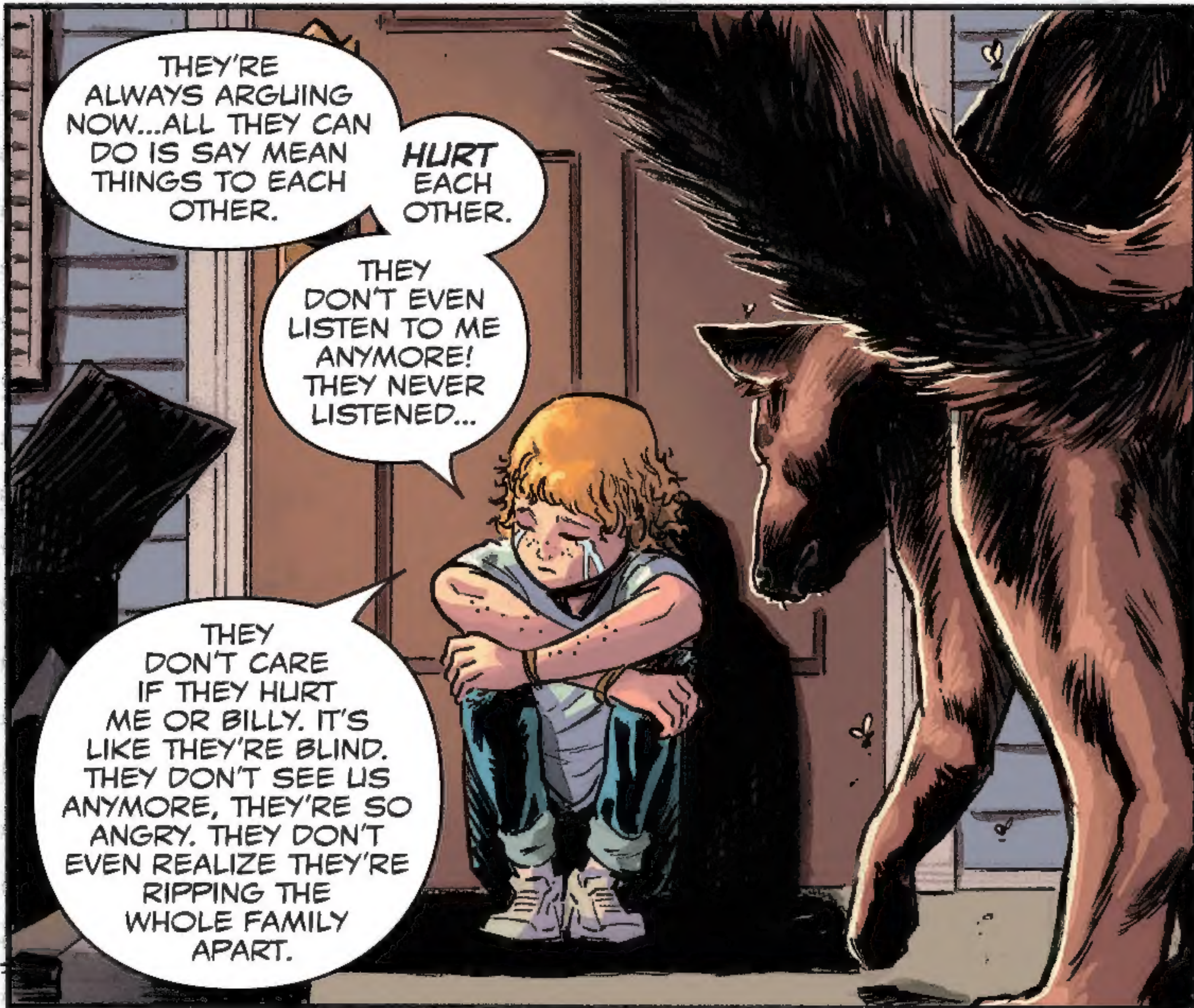
NOT ANYMORE.



MOM AND DAD HAVE BEEN AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS FOR MONTHS. MOM'S TAKING ME AND MY BROTHER AWAY, EVEN IF WE DON'T WANT TO GO.



HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT. YOU JUST DON'T LISTEN. IT'S LIKE YOU'RE IN--



THEY'RE ALWAYS ARGUING NOW...ALL THEY CAN DO IS SAY MEAN THINGS TO EACH OTHER.

HURT EACH OTHER.

THEY DON'T EVEN LISTEN TO ME ANYMORE! THEY NEVER LISTENED...

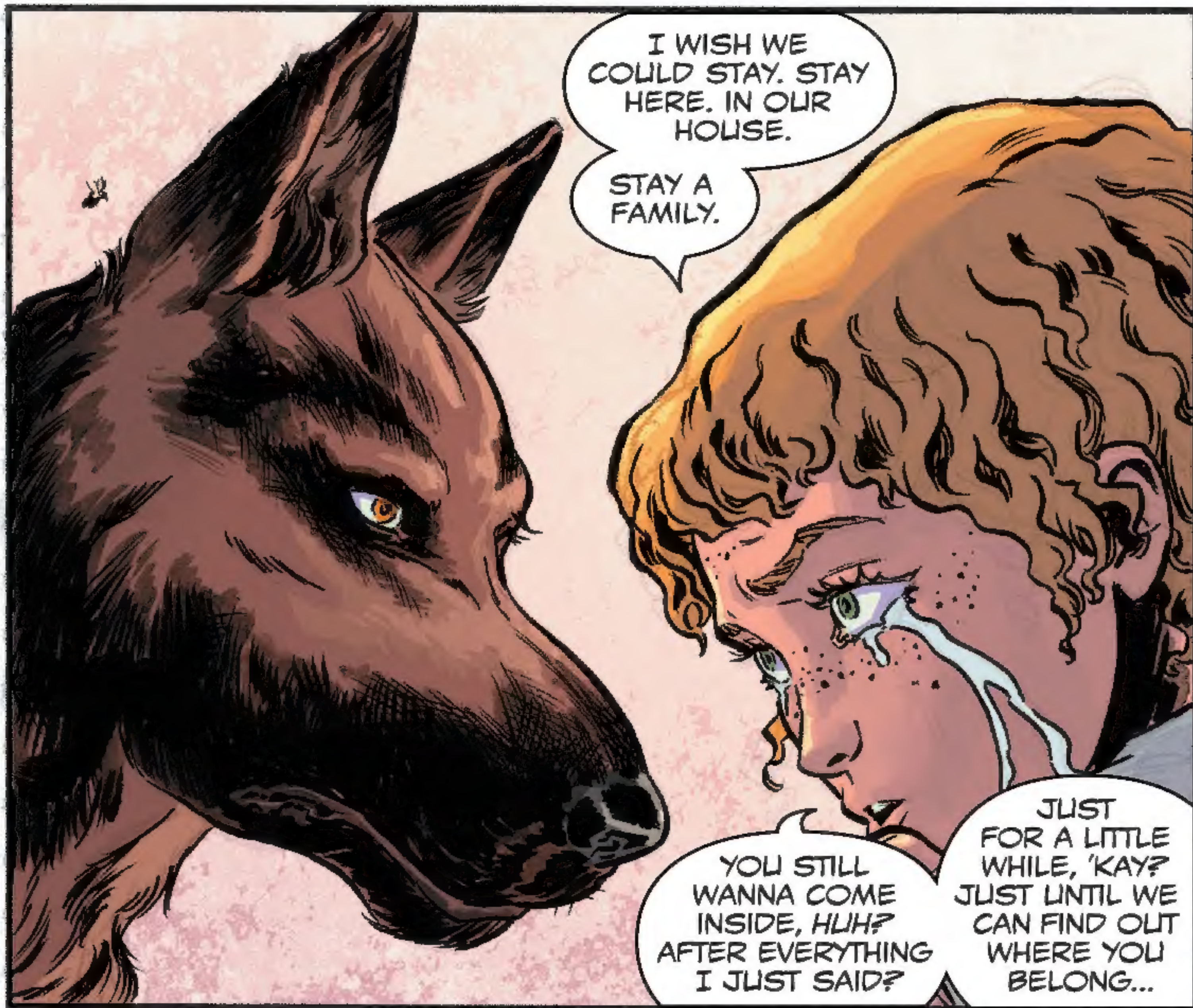
THEY DON'T CARE IF THEY HURT ME OR BILLY. IT'S LIKE THEY'RE BLIND. THEY DON'T SEE US ANYMORE, THEY'RE SO ANGRY. THEY DON'T EVEN REALIZE THEY'RE RIPPING THE WHOLE FAMILY APART.



I'VE BEEN PUTTING FOOD ON OUR TABLE WHILE YOU'VE BEEN--



DON'T YOU SEE THAT THEY NEED YOU--



I WISH WE COULD STAY. STAY HERE. IN OUR HOUSE.

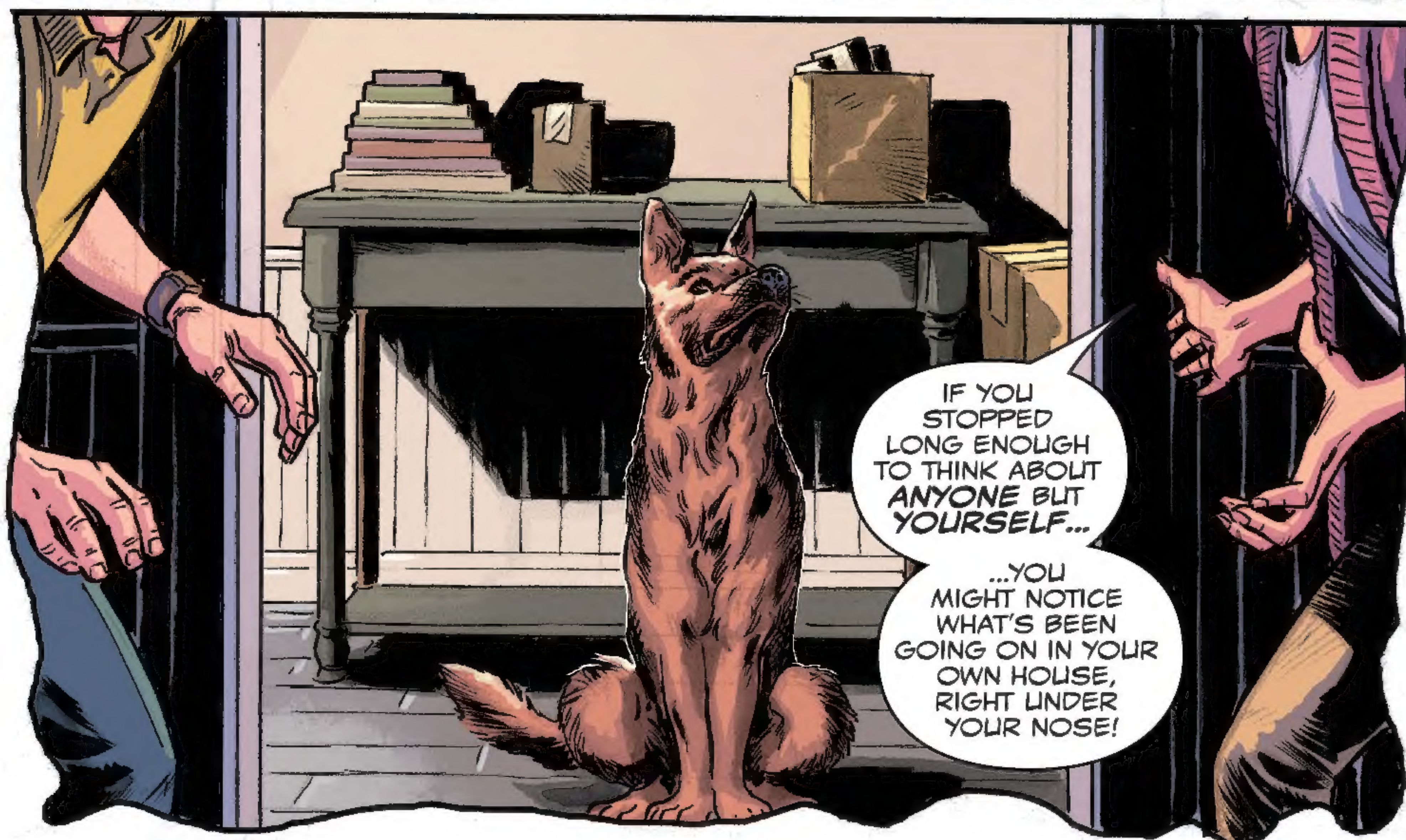
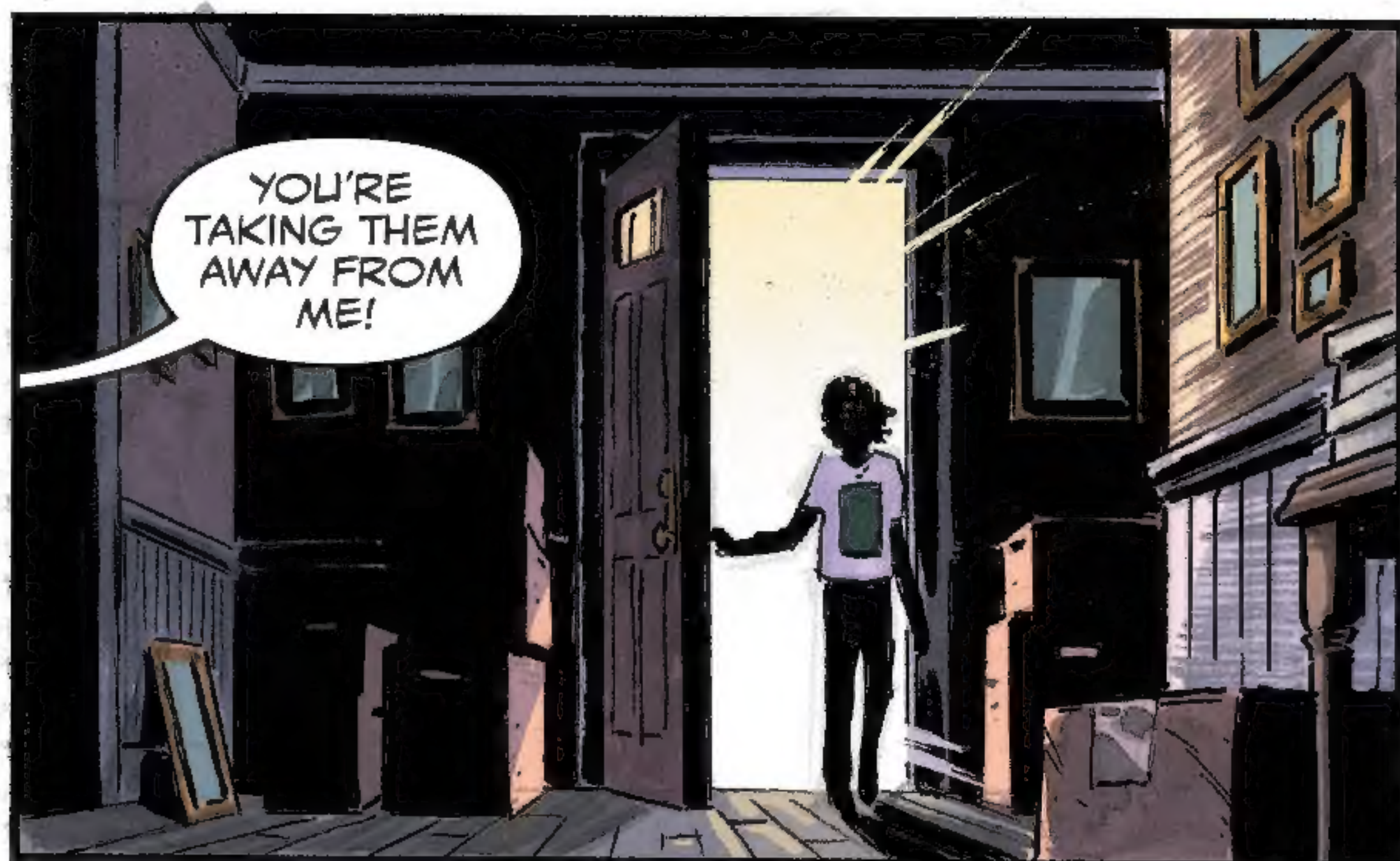
STAY A FAMILY.

YOU STILL WANNA COME INSIDE, HUH? AFTER EVERYTHING I JUST SAID?

JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, 'KAY? JUST UNTIL WE CAN FIND OUT WHERE YOU BELONG...



I'M RIGHT HERE--



AS IF
YOU'RE COMING
UP FOR PARENT
OF THE YEAR...

GO AHEAD.
MAKE ME THE
BAD GUY.

IF THE SHOE
FITS...AND I'D SAY
IT FITS YOU JUST
FINE. FITS YOU
PERFECTLY.

YOU CAN PIN
THE BLAME ON ME ALL
YOU WANT...BUT LET'S
BE HONEST WITH
OURSELVES.

YOU
CLOCKED
OUT OF THIS
MARRIAGE
YEARS AGO.
LONG
BEFORE
I DID.

I NEVER
GAVE UP ON
OUR FAMILY.
NEVER. NOT
LIKE YOU!

PLEASE.
I WOULD DO
ANYTHING TO KEEP
OUR FAMILY
TOGETHER.

ANYTHING.

G R R R R R R!



YEARS AGO, THE LIFE FOUNDATION—A DANGEROUS CONGLOMERATE THAT, FOR A TIME, FOCUSED ITS EFFORTS ON DESTROYING SPIDER-MAN—CAPTURED THE VENOM SYMBIOTE AND FORCED IT TO SPAWN FIVE OFFSPRING: SCREAM, LASHER, RIOT, AGONY AND PHAGE.

FOR YEARS, **THE LIFE FOUNDATION SYMBIOTES**, AS THEY CAME TO BE CALLED, EXISTED SEPARATELY—BUT WHEN ONE OF THE ORGANISMS TURNED TRAITOR AND BEGAN KILLING THEIR HOSTS, THE REMAINING FOUR SYMBIOTES HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO MERGE AND FORM A NEW ENTITY...CALLED HYBRID!

AS HYBRID, THE SYMBIOTES WERE MOST RECENTLY SEEN BONDED TO A STRAY DOG AFTER AN ADVENTURE INVOLVING DEADPOOL.

THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE DOG—AND THE FOUR EXTRATERRESTRIAL CREATURES BONDED TO IT—REMAIN UNKNOWN...

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE
SEPARATION
ANXIETY

CLAY McCLEOD CHAPMAN WRITER **BRIAN LEVEL** ARTIST

JORDAN BOYD COLOR ARTIST **VC's TRAVIS LANHAM** LETTERER

PHILIP TAN, MARC DEERING & JOHN RAUCH COVER ARTISTS

DAVE JOHNSON [CODEX]; **BRIAN LEVEL** [DESIGN]; **CLAYTON CRAIN** VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

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C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PRESIDENT

ALAN FINE
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER





...FRIEND.



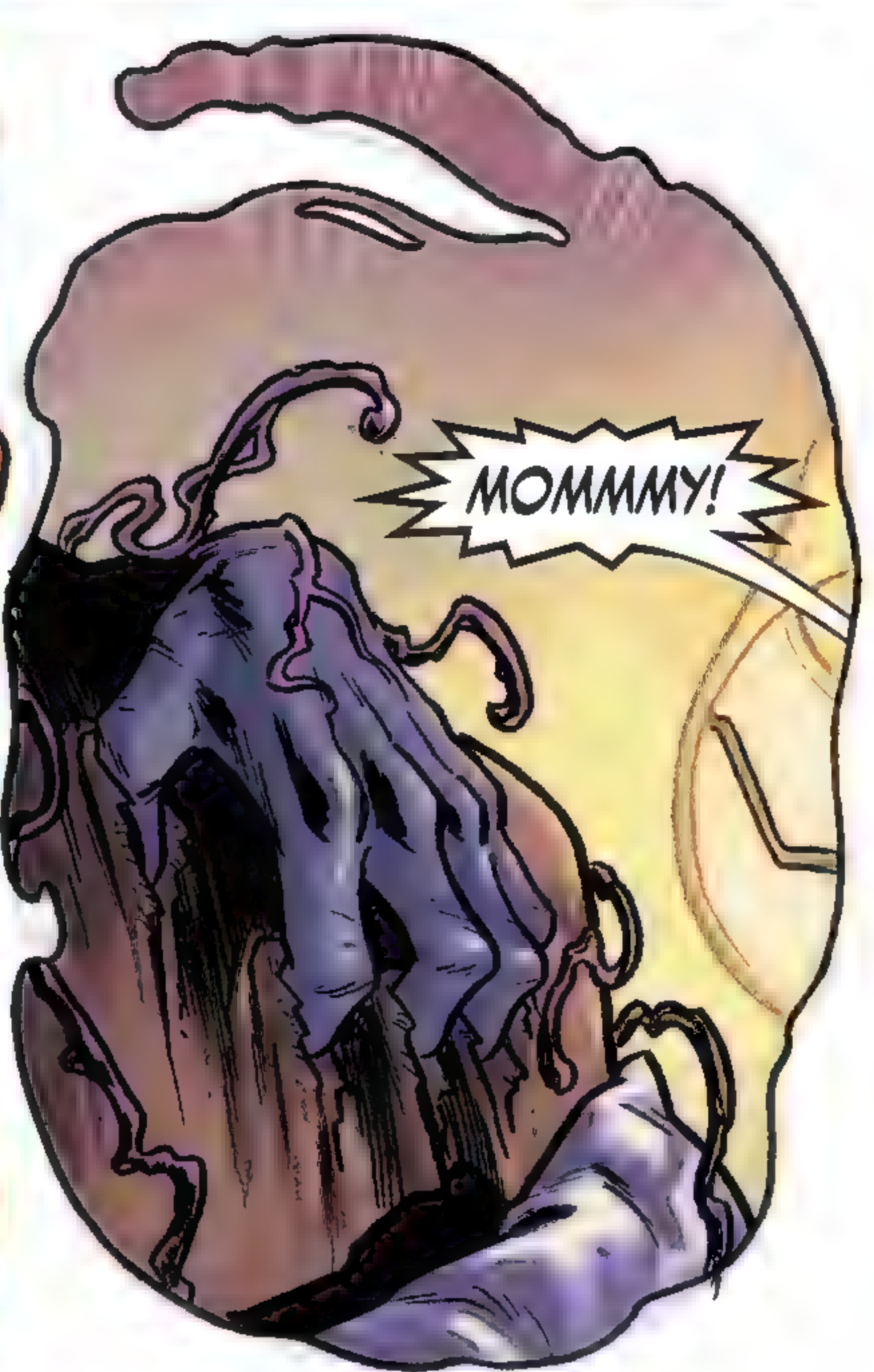
SADIE!

SADIE,
PLEASE--

HELP
ME...

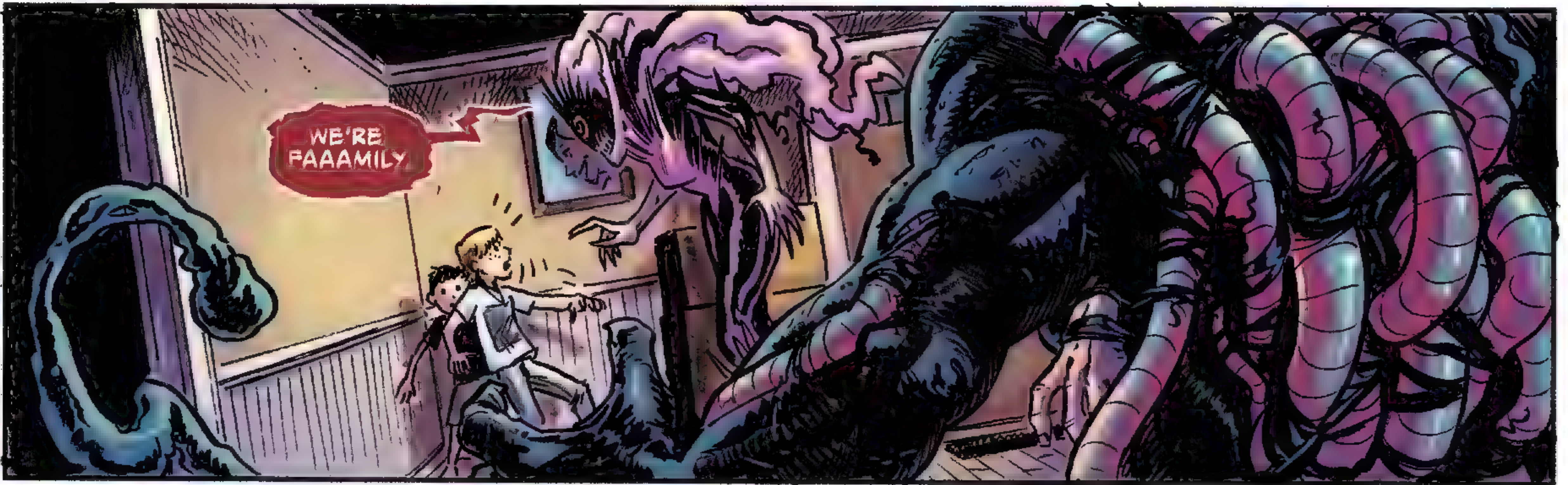
SSAAAADIEEEE...

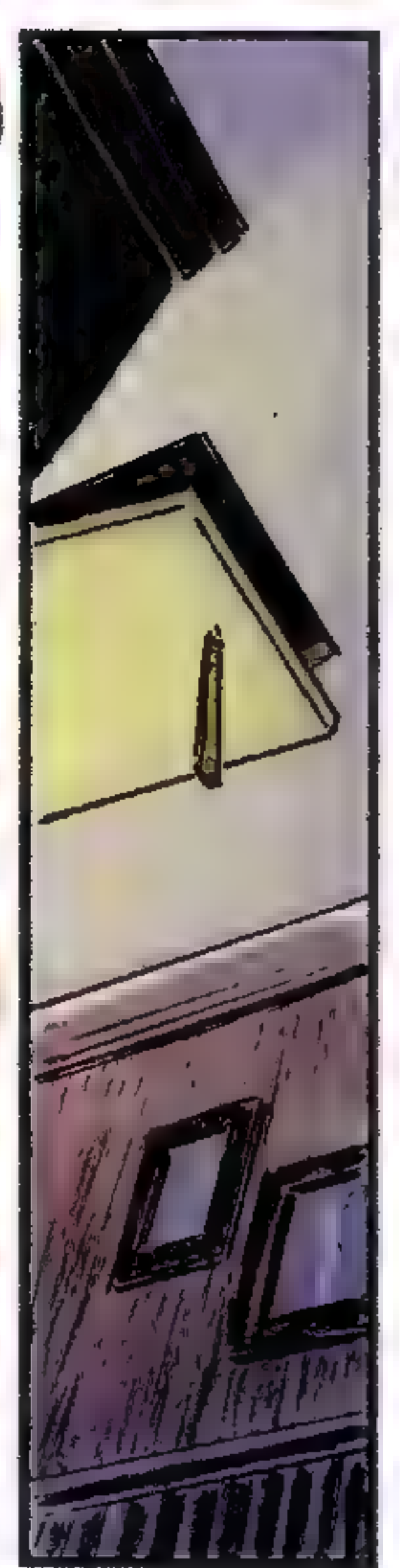
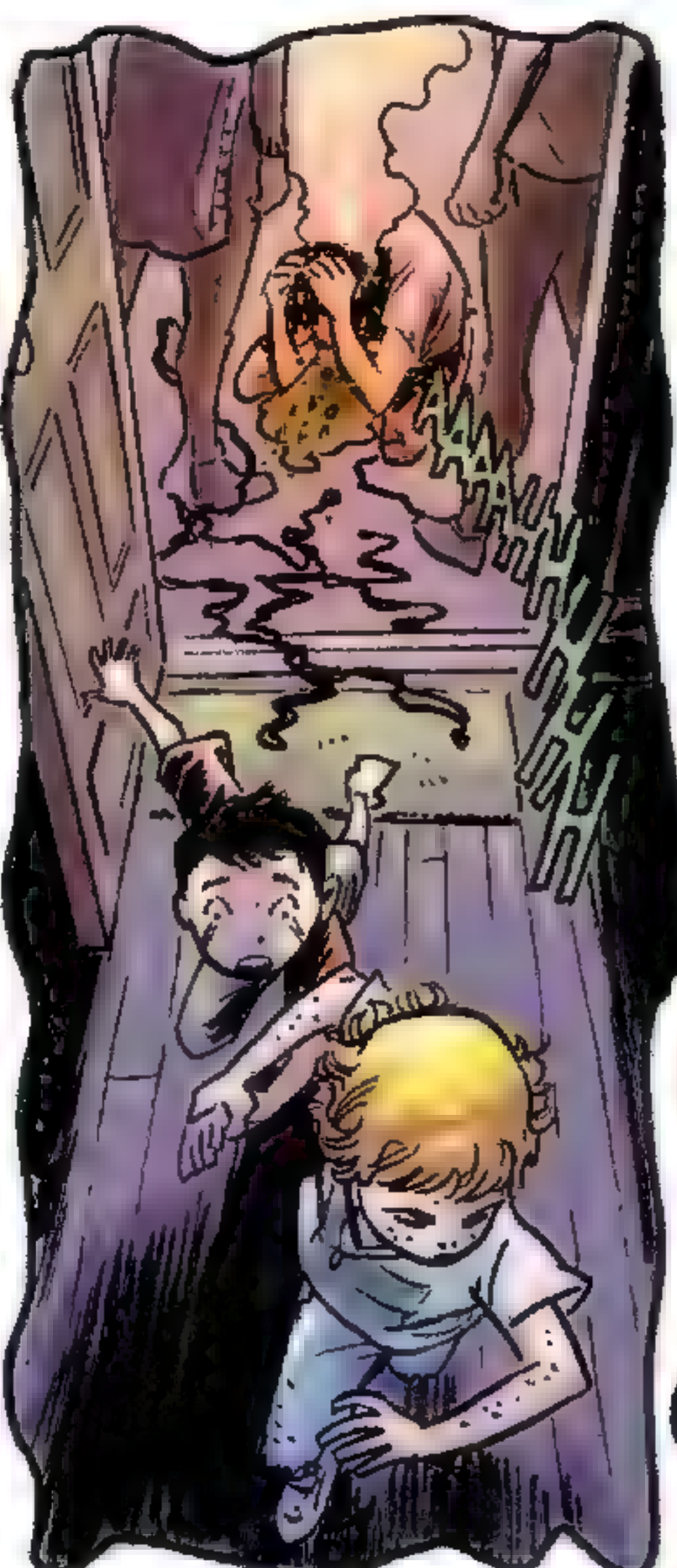
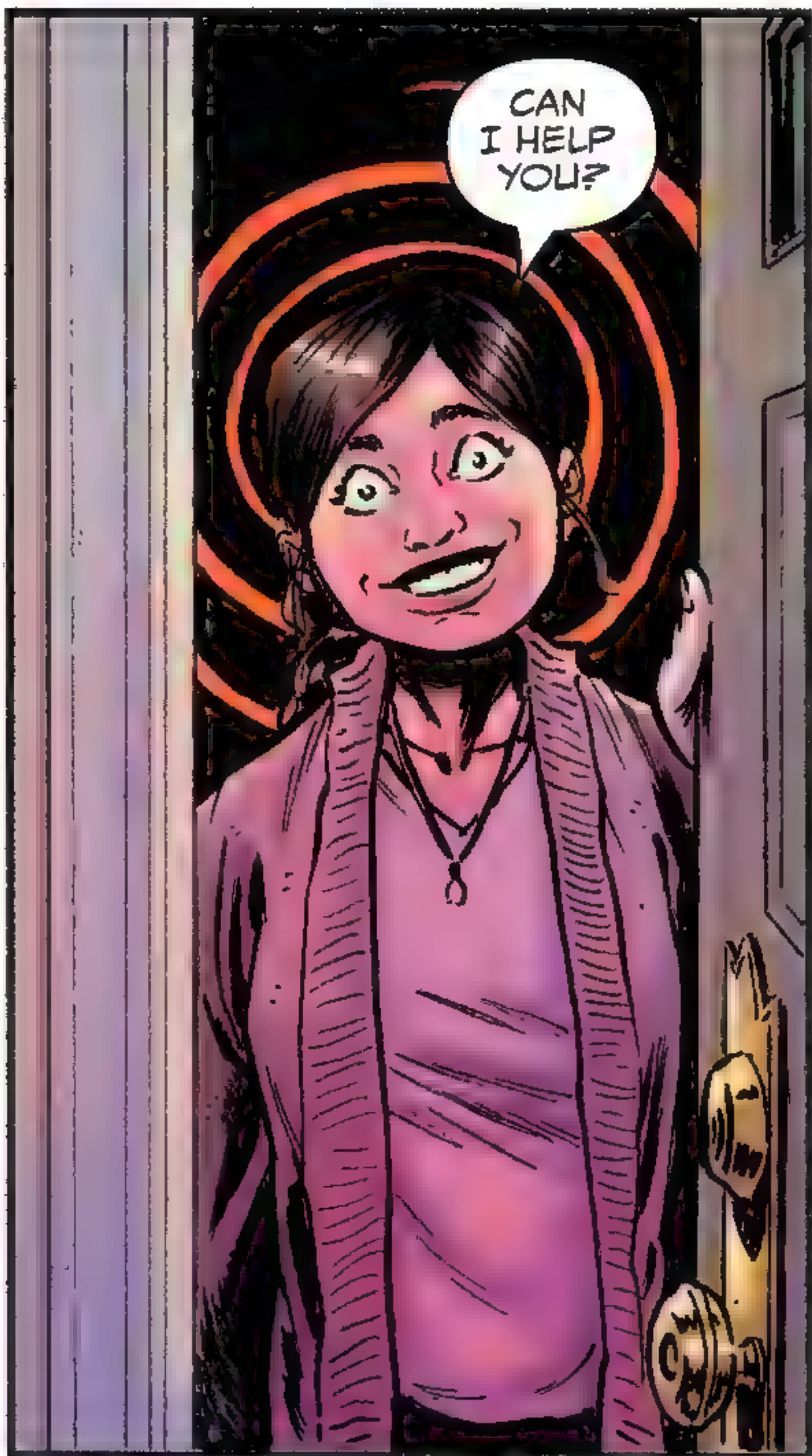
COME TO
DADDDDY...

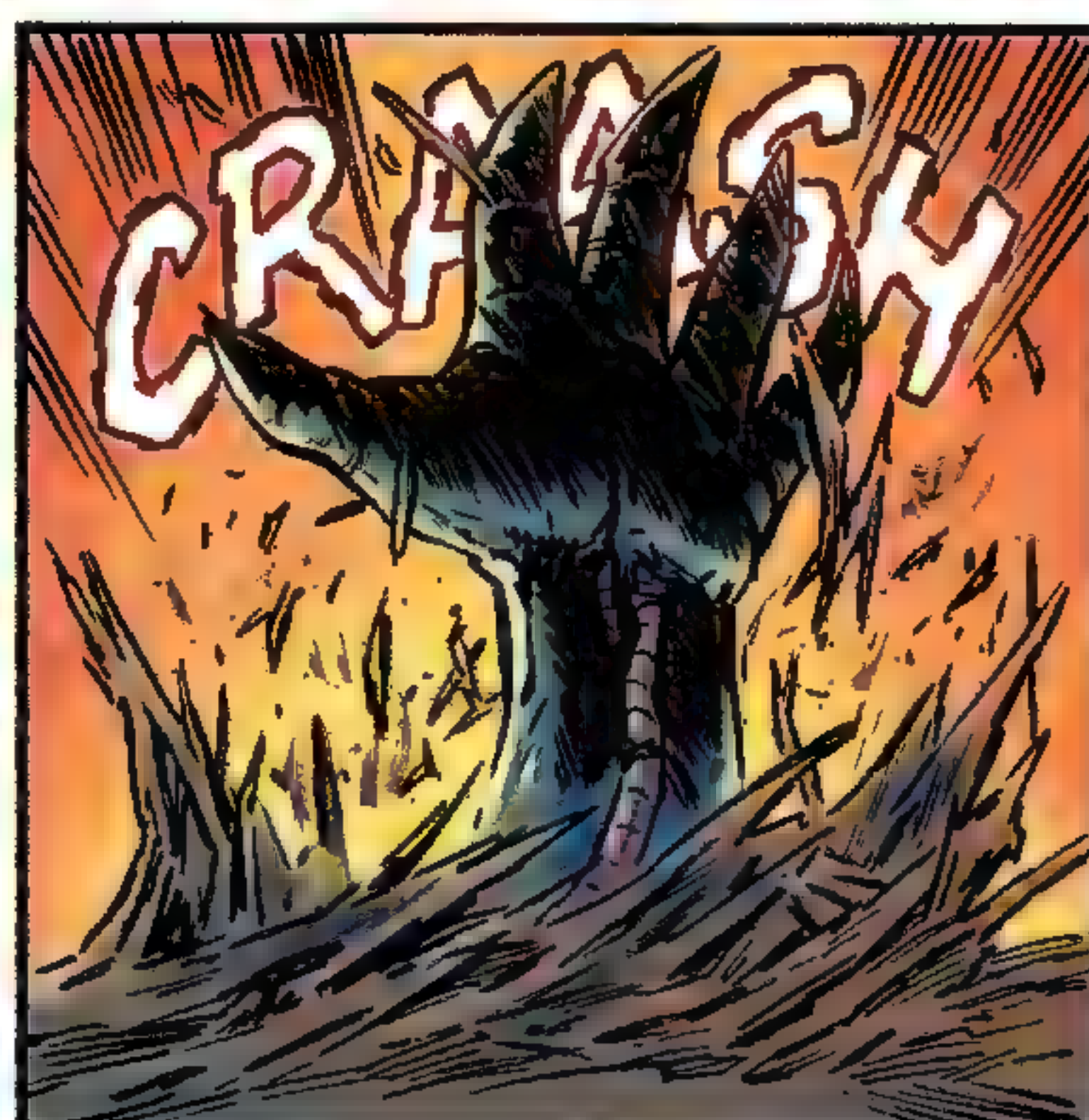




FAMILY









WE HEARD
YOUR CRIES,
SADIE

HEARD
YOUR PAIN...

WE
HAVE BEEN
SEARCHING
FOR A SAFE
HAVEN...

ISN'T
THAT WHAT
YOU ASKED FOR?
ISN'T THAT WHAT
YOU WANTED?
TO BE WHOLE
AGAIN?

ONE
BIG HAPPY
FAMILY

CRASH

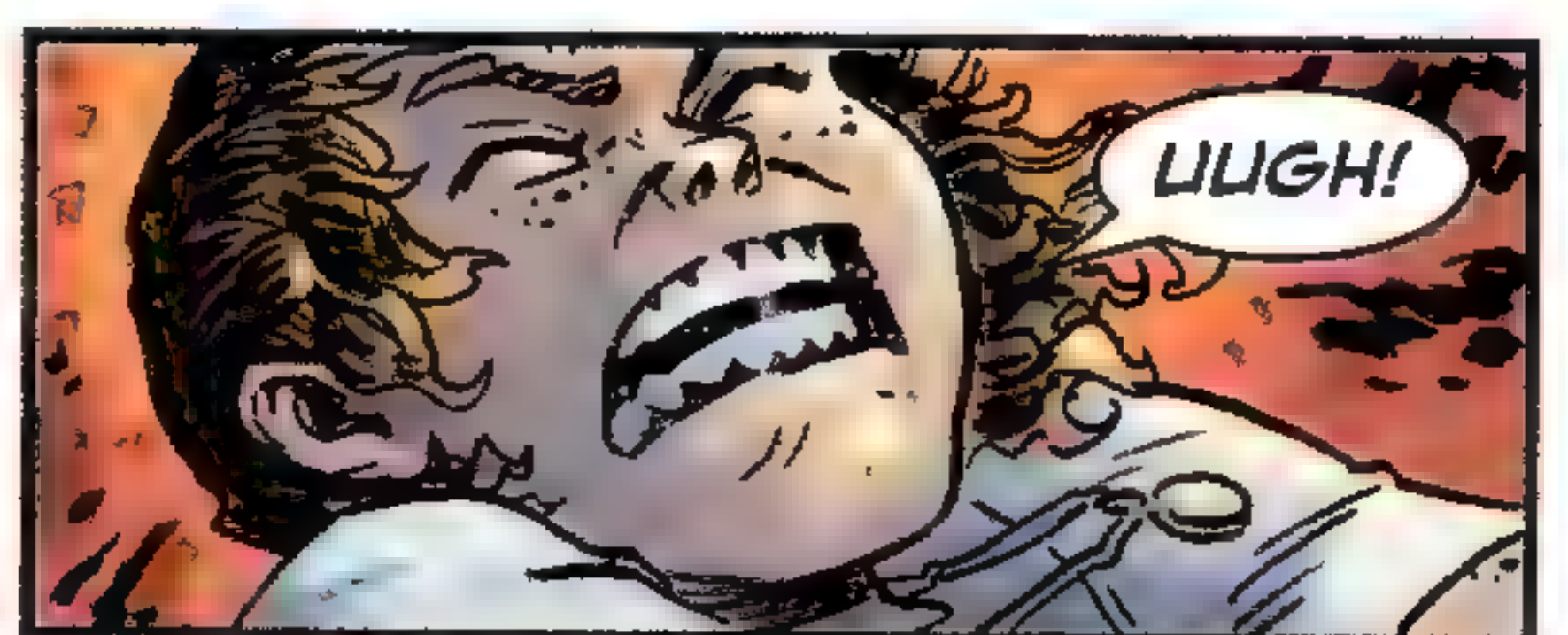
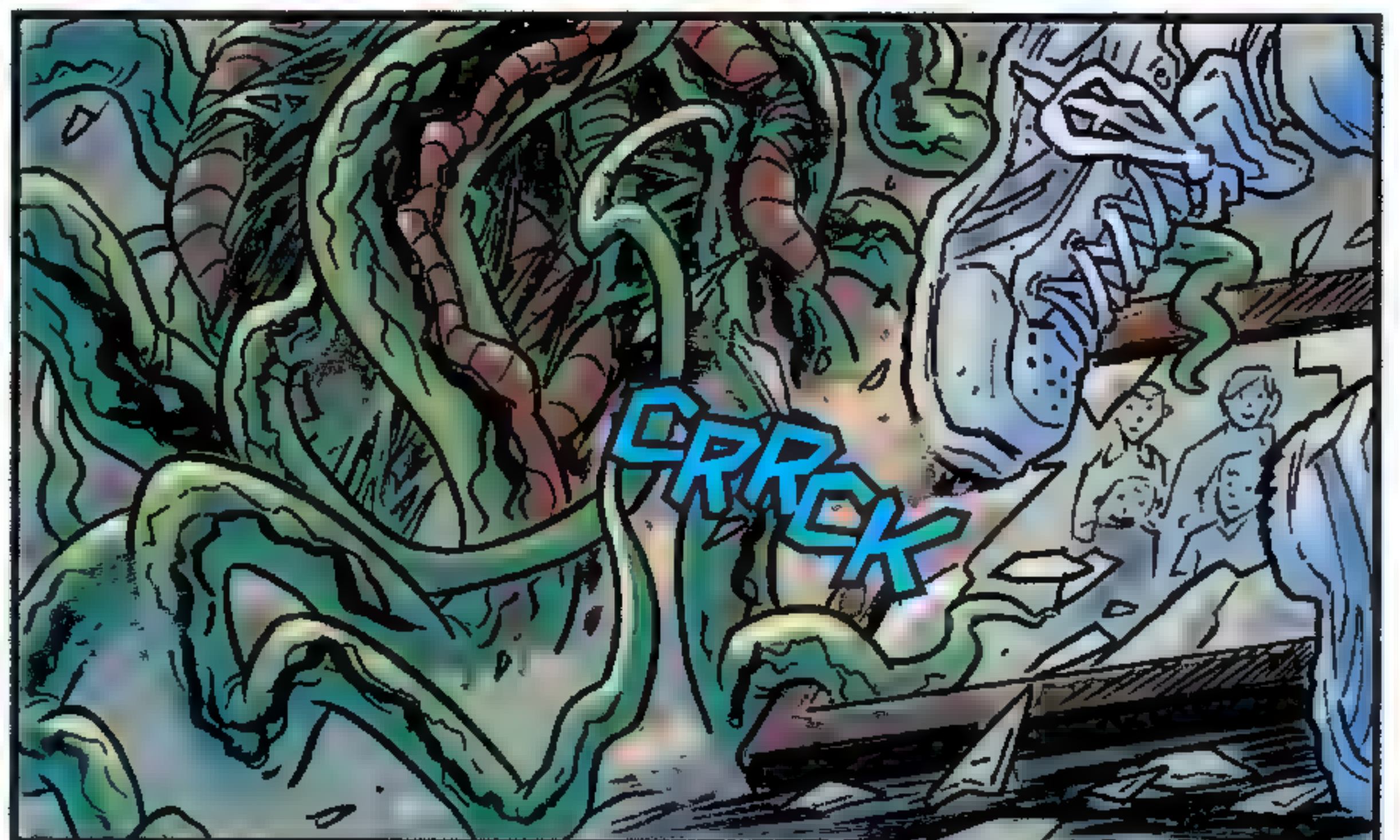
A
PLACE TO
HIDE

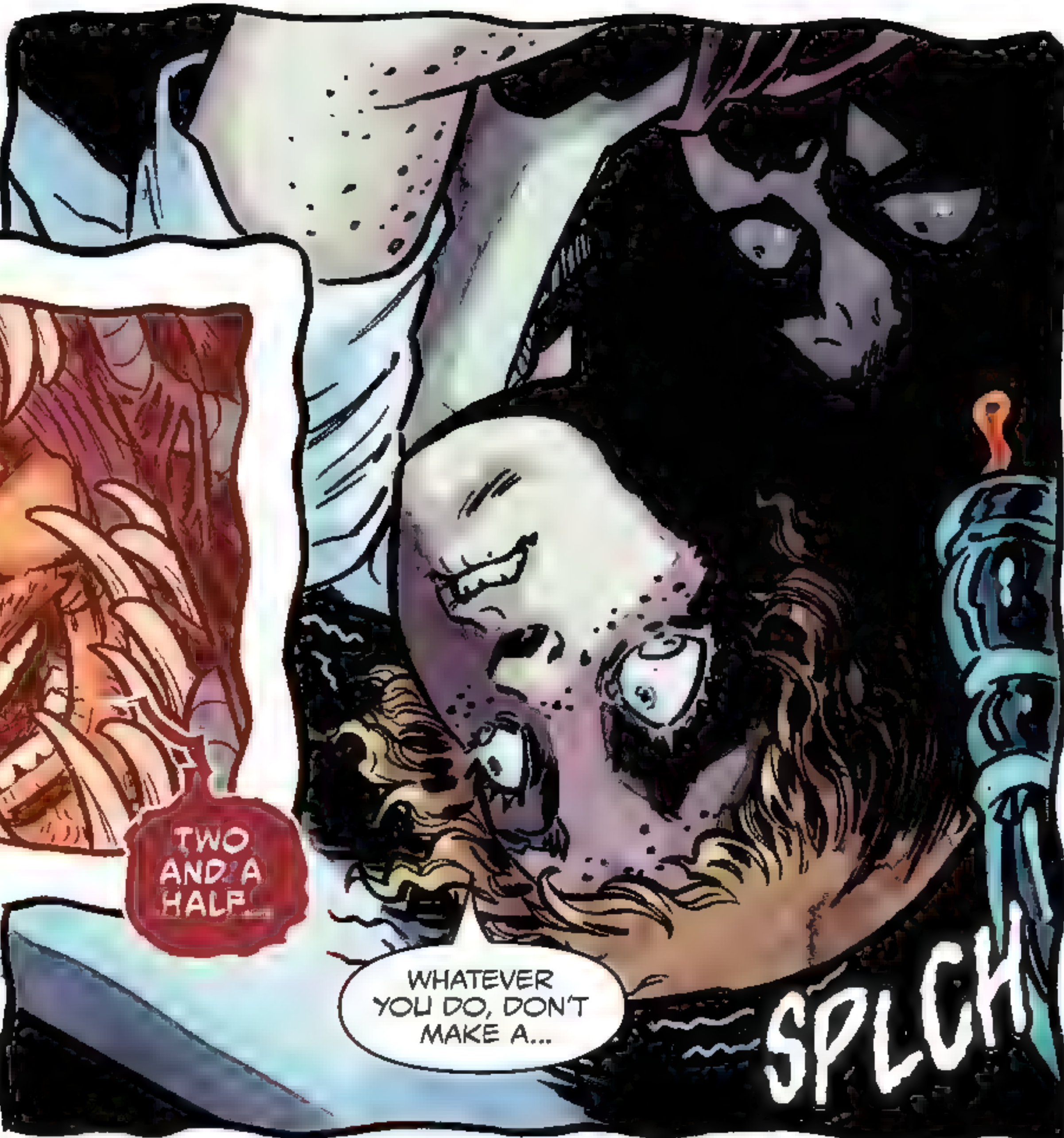
TO CALL
HOME

WE
CAN HEAL
YOU... ALL
OF YOU

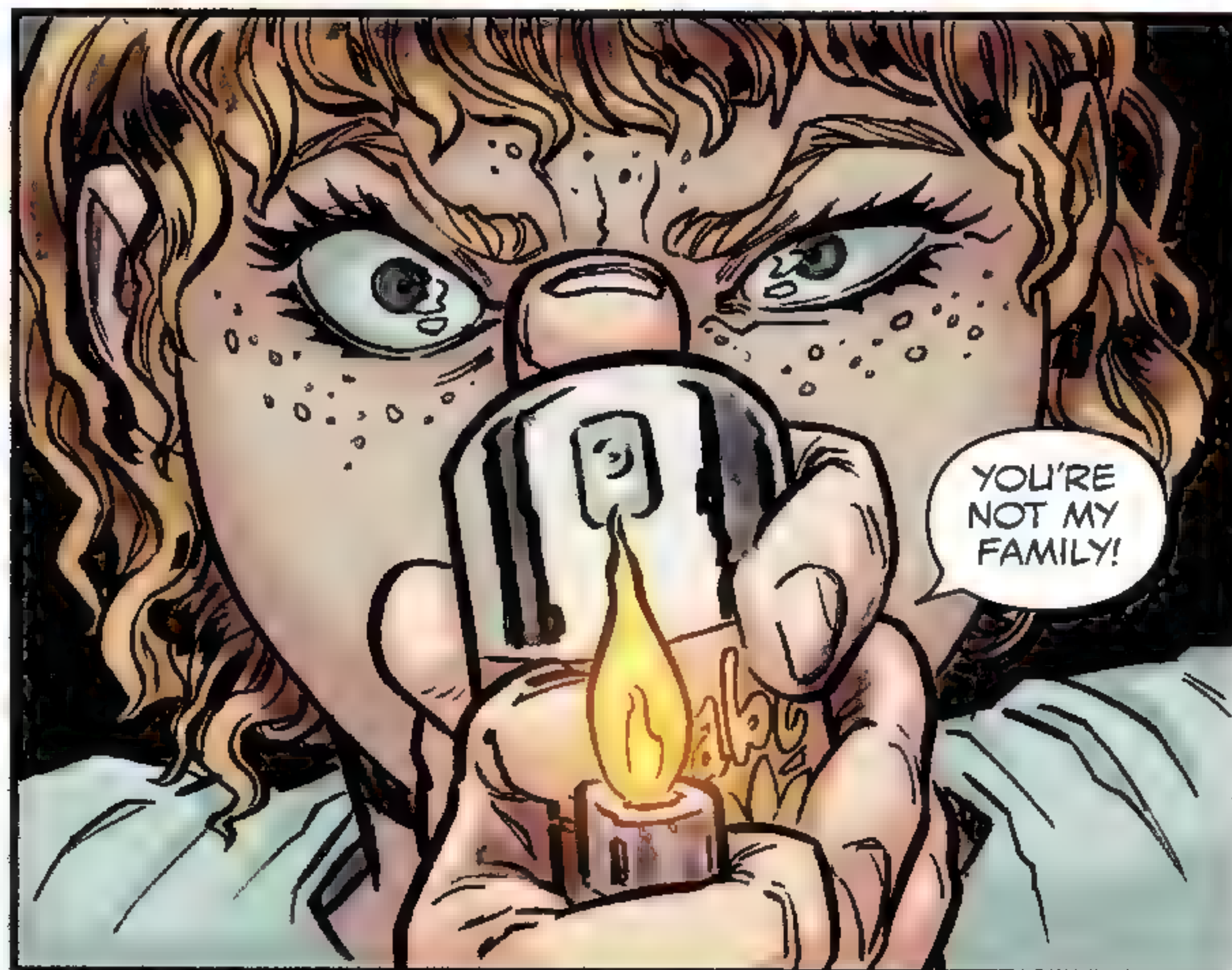
YOUR
MOTHER...YOUR
FATHER...

WE CAN BE
TOGETHER AGAIN.
COMPLETE
AGAIN.











**GIVE ME
BACK MY
FAMILY!**



YOU NEEDED
USSSSS. YOUR
FAMILY WAS
FALLING TO
PIECES...

YOUR
HOME RIPPED
APART

WE WILL
HOLD YOUR HOME
TOGETHER. WE
CAN KEEP YOUR
FAMILY UNITED.
CONNECTED!

ISSN'T
THAT WHAT YOU
WANT...? WHAT
YOU ASKED
USSS FOR?

SSSOME
QUALITY
BONDING
TIME?



pspp?

OH...



ROWR
RAWRR ROW!

YELP!



WAIT
UP, SSSS!
DON'T LEAVE
MEEE

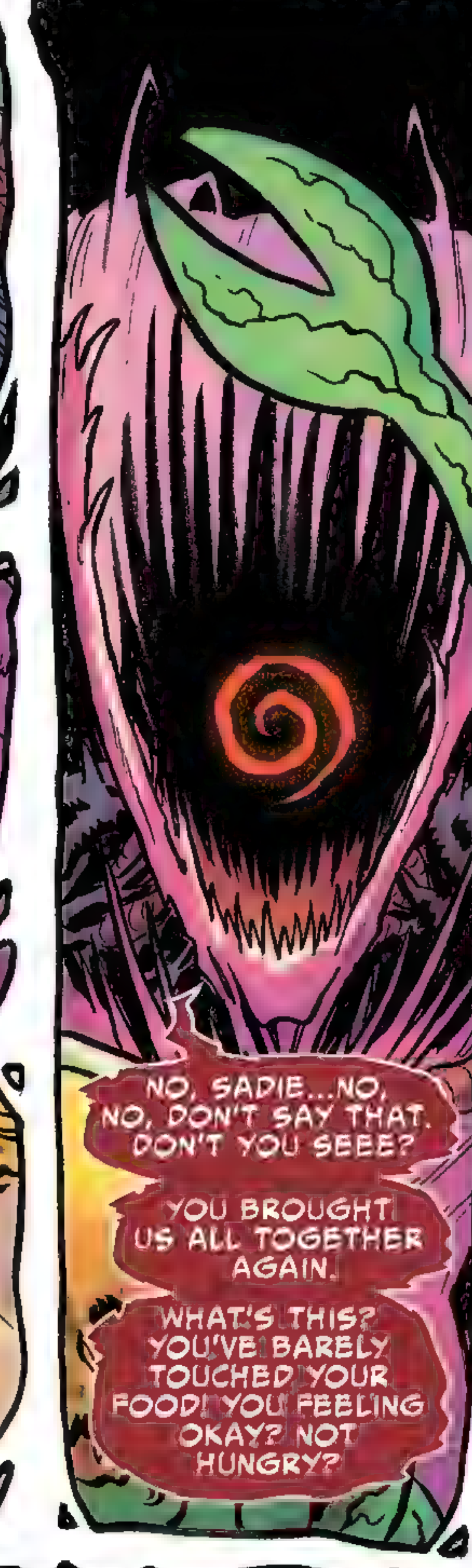
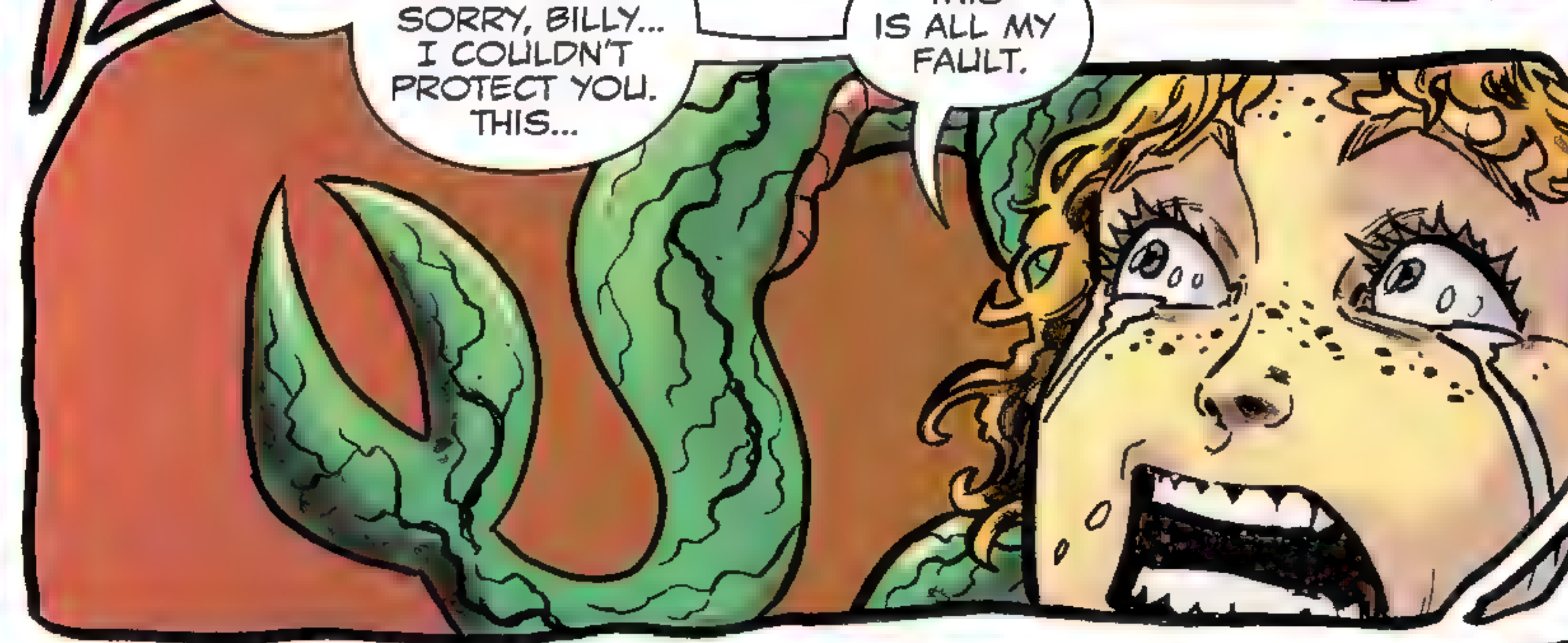
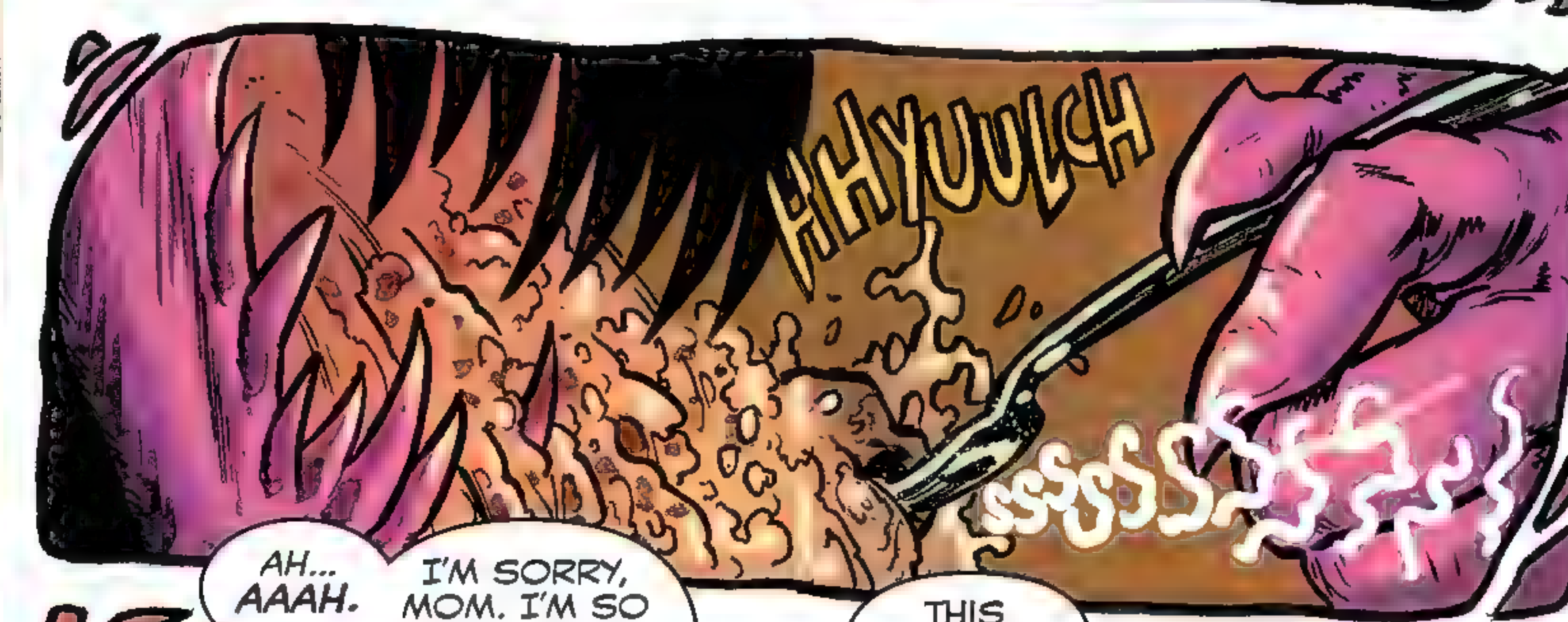
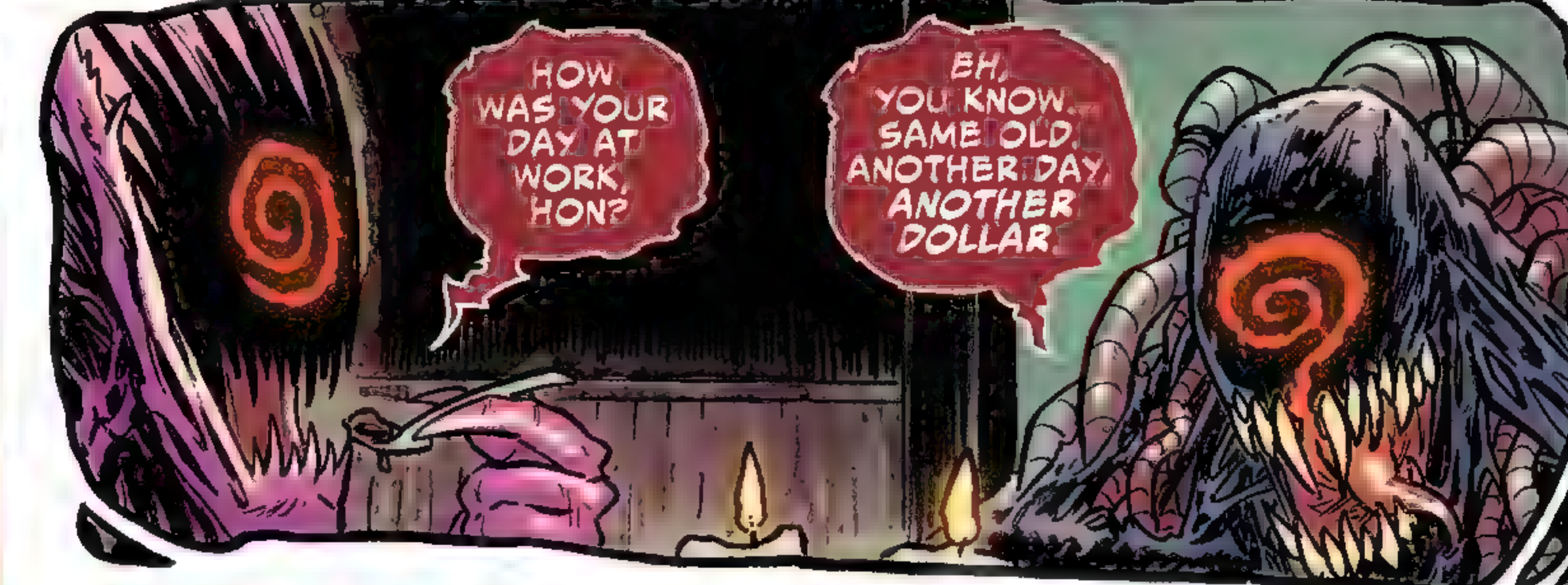
YOO!





GOOD BREAD...
GOOD MEEET...

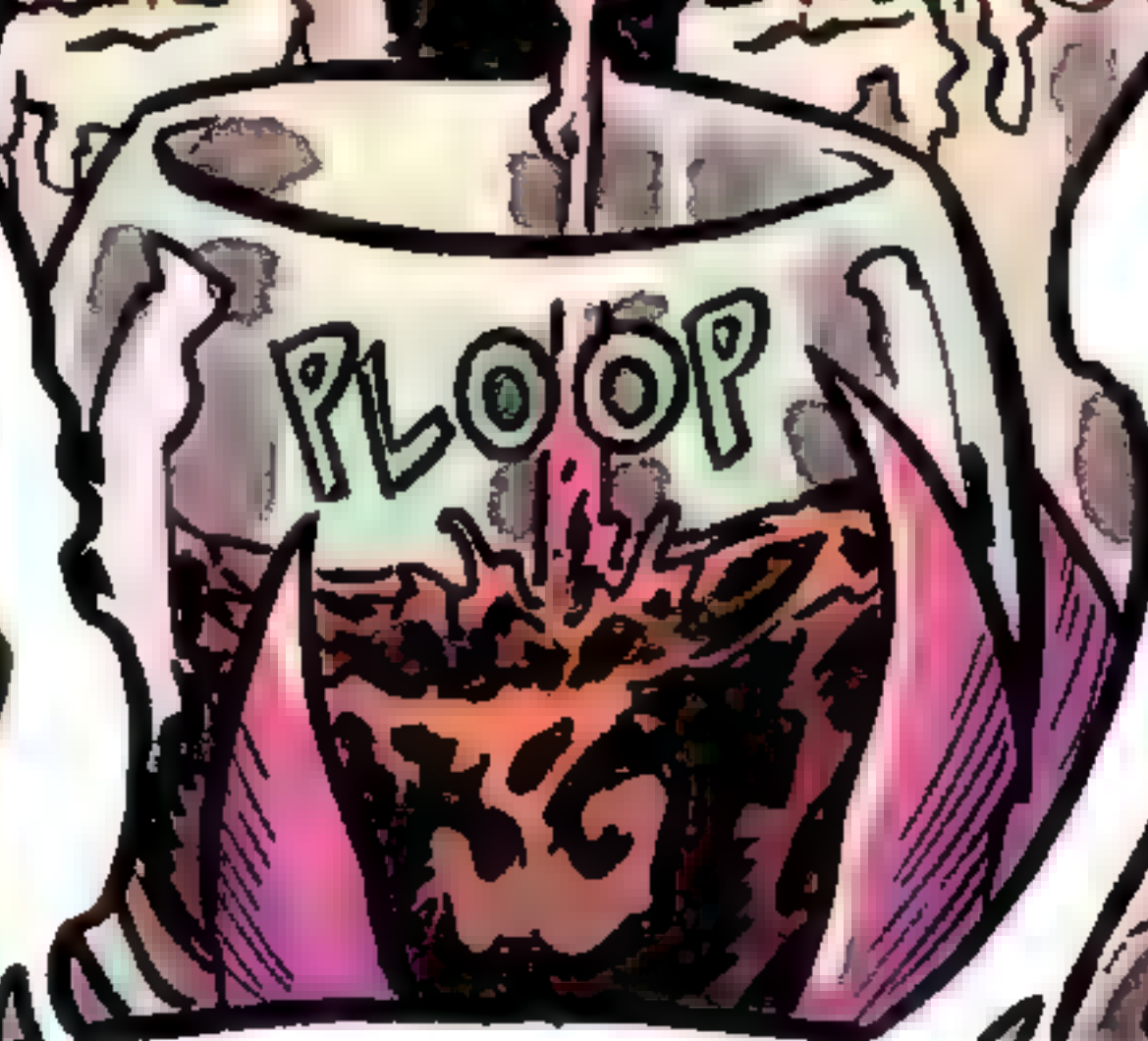
GOOD GOD KNULL,
LET'S EEEEEET!



I'D LIKE
TO PROPOSE A
TOAST TO OUR
FAMILY.
TO SADIE.

IF IT
WEREN'T FOR
YOU, DEAR,
NONE OF THIS
WOULD HAVE
HAPPENED.
NOW WE
CAN MAKE OUR
PILGRIMAGE
TO MEET OUR
MAKER.
TO REUNITE
WITH KNULL.

YOU ARE
THE GLUE
THAT BINDS
THIS FAMILY
TOGETHER.





NO!

YOU ARE
NOT MY
FAMILY!

SPLCH

RAWWR!

RAAAAR!

SKRRREEE!

HSSSS!

RAAAWR!
RAAAWR!



HOME.

HOME IS
WHERE THE
HEART IS.

THIS HAS ALWAYS
BEEN OUR HOME.

WE WERE
BORN HERE.
WE GREW
UP HERE.

THIS IS THE ONLY
HOME WE'VE
EVER HAD.

EVER
KNOWN.

ALL
PACKED!
TIME TO HIT
THE ROAD,
KIDS...

SADIE!
COME ON, HON...
WE'RE BURNING
DAYLIGHT.



WHO'S READY
TO TAKE A BITE
OUTTA THE BIG
APPLE?

WE ARE,
WE ARE!

ALL RIGHTY,
THEN...AND
AAAAWAY
WE GO!

IF ANYONE
GETS HUNGRY, WE
PACKED A SNACK IN
THE COOLER. JUST
LET US KNOW.

I
SPY...

...WITH
MY LITTLE
EYE...

...SOMETHING
RED.

TO BE
CONTINUED
IN ABSOLUTE
CARNAGE!



CLETUS' Clubhouse

DANNY KHAZEM
ASSISTANT EDITOR

DEVIN LEWIS EDITOR NICK LOWE
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PRESIDENT

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

SEND EMAILS TO SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM (PLEASE MARK "OKAY TO PRINT"!))

AT LAST!

After over a year of planning, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE has fallen upon the Marvel Universe!

If this is your first VENOM book in a while, or your first one ever, WELCOME! We hope you survive the experience.

As I write this, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 has only been at the printer for about 48 hours, so we don't have any fan letters from you Venomaniacs out there in Mighty Marveldom just yet...

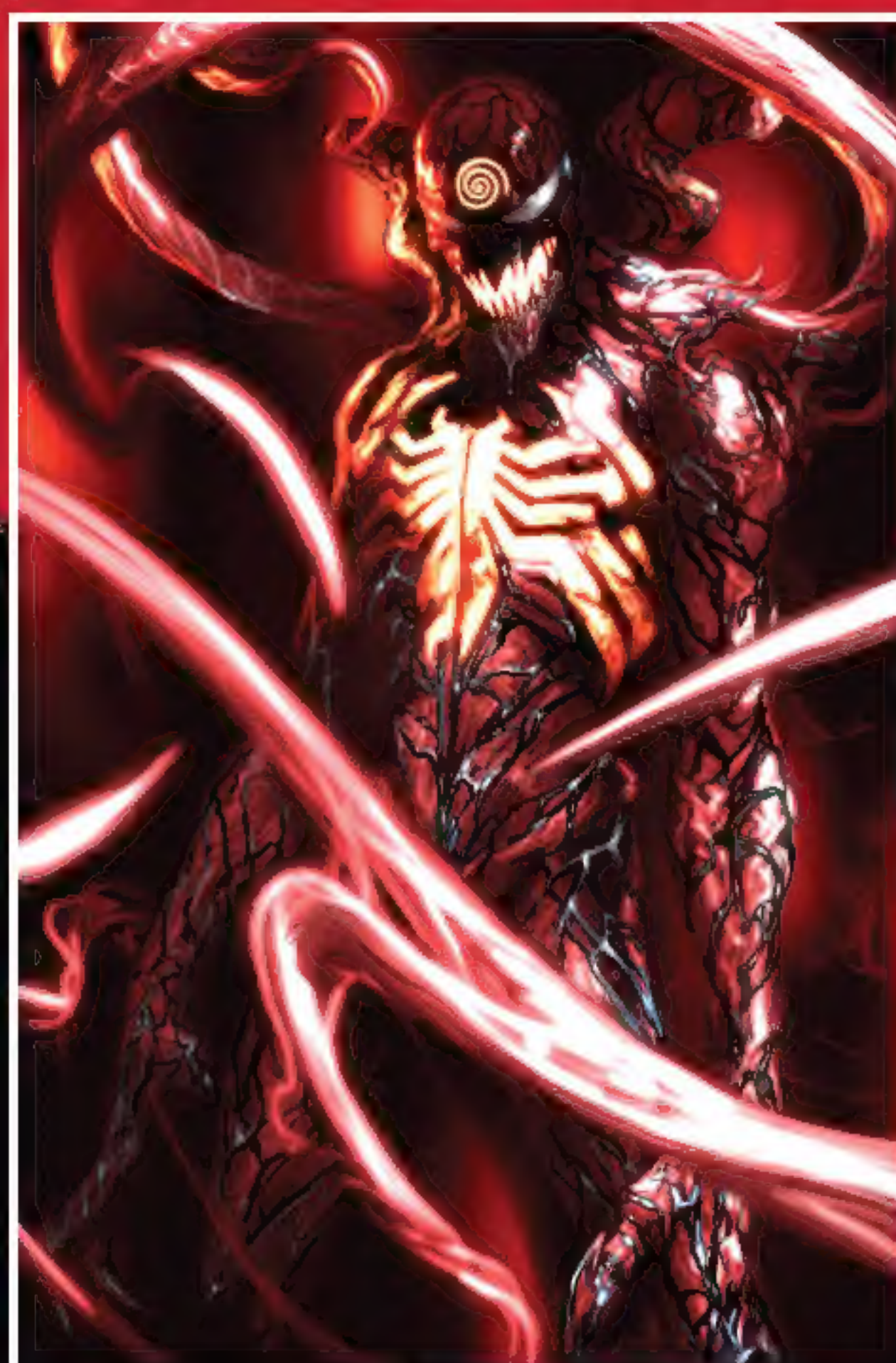
BUT YOU CAN FIX THAT RIGHT NOW! How?! By writing a letter about this very comic book to us at SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM--be sure to mark it "OKAY TO PRINT" and you may just see it in this very column in another issue of ABSOLTUE CARNAGE!

ITEM: No event is complete without an awesome assortment of variant covers, so we wanted to take this opportunity to explain some of the epic variant programs your pals here at the House of Ideas have been working on--and give a shout-out to all of the incredibly talented artists who have contributed to the first wave of variants in the process!

CODEX VARIANTS: These covers showcase characters who have worn Venom or one of its offspring and have codices in their DNA! On this issue, we were fortunate enough to be joined by comics legend Dave Johnson, channeling his inner Merc With a Mouth for this one!



CULT OF CARNAGE VARIANTS: These covers showcase the super villains who have been working with Carnage for the last several months! And who better to kick the program off than the maniacal maestro himself, Cletus Kasady?! Gabriele Dell'Otto joined us for this piece--featured on ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1--and I dunno about you guys, but as far as I'm concerned, he created straight-up nightmare fuel here.



shiver

YOUNG GUNS: AH! One of the coolest programs I've ever gotten to work on. The Young Guns are the next generation of industry-defining artists, and each one of them did a variant for the event featuring a redesign of a major Marvel character, based on the part they play in ABSOLUTE CARNAGE.

First we have this STUNNING Demogoblin redesign from Aaron Kuder that was also featured on ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1:



But when last we saw Demogoblin, it seemed to take a male form. How is it back, and why the change in how it manifests? Are these designs simple fantasy, or will they find their way to the Marvel Universe in the pages of ABSOLUTE CARNAGE? There's only one way to find out, True Believers: KEEP READING!

CONNECTING VARIANTS: Lastly, but certainly by no means least, ABSOLUTE CARNAGE and its tie-in miniseries will each be getting interlocking covers. Unfortunately, SEPARATION ANXIETY is

a one-shot, which makes it a bit difficult to create a connecting cover for this one. Fortunately, we've got another tie-in to **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE** going on sale this week...**SCREAM!**

The fifth and final Life Foundation symbiote, **Scream** has always been one of my favorite Marvel characters, and it's been a treat to watch the character return to prominence as a part of **ABSOLUTE**

CARNAGE! The connecting covers on that miniseries were illustrated by none other than Mark Bagley, and I dunno about you, but they're some of my favorite covers **EVER!**



One final note on variant covers before we dip to get this issue to the printer.

If you want one of the covers listed here--or any other cover that's a part of **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE**--and your comic shop doesn't have it, **TELL YOUR COMIC SHOP ABOUT THAT SPECIFIC COVER!** There should be someone from your shop in touch with someone here at the House

of Ideas who'll be able to scare one up. It's never guaranteed, but your local shop should always be your first stop if you're hunting a specific cover down.

And while you're at it, tell them you want the best, and this month the best is **CARNAGE!** 'Cause this summer... **CARNAGE RULES!**
#carnagerules

And don't miss **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #1**, one of the best minis I've ever worked on **EVER**, and **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #1** and **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1**--both on sale next week!

Stay sharp!
Devin
@edevinlewis



ABSOLUTE CARNAGE CHECKLIST

AUGUST

- X **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1**
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2**
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #1**
- X **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #1**
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #1**
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1**
- X **ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY #1**
- VENOM #17**

SEPTEMBER

- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3**
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #2**
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #2**
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #2**
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #2**
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE:**
 - GHOST RIDER - SYMBIOTE OF VENGEANCE #1**

- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN #1**
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: AVENGERS #1**
- VENOM #18**
- AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #30**

OCTOBER

- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4**
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #3**
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM #3**
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS #3**
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #3**
- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: IMMORTAL HULK #1**
- VENOM #19**
- AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31**

NOVEMBER

- ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #5**
- VENOM #20**

